

$$\text{eg. } (2.1 \pm 0.1\text{cm}) - (1.2 \pm 0.2\text{cm}) \\ = 0.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ cm}$$

this rule takes precedence over the sig fig rule

$$\text{eg. } 2.50 \pm 0.05\text{cm} - 1.00 \pm 0.07\text{cm} \\ = 1.50 \pm 0.12 \text{ so write it as } 1.5 \pm 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

ok
better

Multiplying and dividing
add the percent uncertainty

$$\begin{aligned} \text{eg. } & 2.50 \pm 0.05 \text{ cm} \times 1.00 \pm 0.07 \text{ cm} \\ & = 2.50 \pm 0.05/2.50 \times 1.00 \pm 0.07/1 \\ & = 2.50 \pm (2\% + 7\%) \\ & = 2.50 \pm 9\% \text{ percent uncertainty} \\ & = 2.50 \pm (0.09 \times 2.50) \\ & = 2.50 \pm 0.225 \text{ cm}^2 \\ & = 2.5 \pm 0.2 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ absolute uncertainty} \end{aligned}$$

range = highest - lowest

round the value to the decimal point of the uncertainty

2.50 ± 0.225 uncertainty is 0.2 to 1 sf, so round 2.50 to the tenth

2.5 ± 0.2

When graphing, uncertainty bars show the uncertainty on the data points

eg. 2.5 ± 0.2 cm

at 2.5 you would have your point and draw a line from 2.3 to 2.7 to show uncertainty

Multiple trials can also be shown on the graph to indicate the uncertainty but IB requires uncertainty bars

the uncertainty in the slope and intercept can be determined using 3 best-fit lines going through the data - max line, min line and the average

uncertainty in the slope = $\frac{\text{max slope} - \text{min slope}}{2}$



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